

# QUEER FANCIES OF NIAGARA SUICIDES

World Famous Falls Fascinate  
and Lure Many to a Plunge to  
Death—Dramatic Scenes on  
Brink.

## REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Every year persons and their lives in the rapid-running waters of Niagara. The record goes far back, and includes many strange cases. Ann Hall, 35 years of age, committed suicide fifty years ago by going over the waterfall. She was a bride of but a week. Each suicide appears to have a different plan. A party of visitors were enjoying the scene from the Third Sister Island on August 13, 1884, when they were startled by a man emerging from the bushes. He was clad only in light underwear. Tossing articles of jewelry to them he leaped into the boiling waters close by. He was Herman Wutke of Buffalo, and his act was due to dependency.

A young man on the afternoon of February 25, 1885, descended the incline railway, walked out to a mound of whiteness toward the upper suspension bridge which then spanned the gorge, and after stamping down a level place on the icy hillock, shot himself.

He was Charles Wellbacher, second son of Paul Wellbacher, of Wellbacher & Loesch, hop merchants of New York. He was 25 years old and his father's bookkeeper. Dependency and insomnia were the causes.

There have been suicides at night as well as by day. C. V. Sweet of Jersey City, on August 23, 1885, strolled out from his hotel to enjoy Niagara by moonlight. At Prospect Point he found a man in a coat, and papers in the pocket indicated it belonged to Charles Hough of Batavia. A week later Mr. Hough's body was taken from the whirlpool.

Because of the number of suicides at Niagara, persons have attempted to mislead the world by pretending to have committed suicide. No case of this kind is more notable than that of Bryan B. Crandall.

CRANDALL'S ROGUE'S SUICIDE.  
It was on April 1, 1886, that an officer of the State reservation found a hat under an overturned seat back of the Cataract House. On the lining of the hat was the name "B. B. Crandall, No. 1174 West avenue, Buffalo, N. Y."

A body was found and identified as that of Crandall. His life was insured in various companies for \$250,000. Some paid but Nelson O. Tiffany, secretary of the Niagara Life Association of Western New York, clung to the opinion that Crandall was alive and needed payment.

One hundred thousand circulars bearing Crandall's picture were sent out and \$5000 was offered for knowledge of his whereabouts.

Mr. Tiffany, in the spring of 1892 received a telegram from Los Angeles, signed by Mrs. M. Roland, asking if Crandall was still wanted and if the reward held good. Clues were given by Mrs. Roland that led to Crandall's arrest near Los Angeles, and he was brought East to Buffalo. He was never convicted. Relatives paid his way back to California, where he entered an old soldier's home.

SHOWED HOW FAR HE COULD GO.  
Edwin Miles and R. H. Trebor, ministers, strolled to Prospect Point on November 16, 1888, to view the falls.

"I wonder," said Mr. Trebor, "how far a boat could come down those rapids and not go over the fall."

"Say," called a stranger standing by as they passed, "I don't know how far a boat could go, but I will show you how far I can go."

With that the man buttoned up his coat, pulled his hat down on his head, threw away a cigar, and, leaning upon the parapet wall, dived headlong into the current, a few feet back from the brink of the American Fall, over which he was quickly swept. He was Charles Campbell of Buffalo, 34 years old, who had had to trouble, so far as his friends knew.

A suicide was announced in the afternoon of July 13, 1891. There were hundreds of witnesses. A woman fell fainting in the park and was carried into the superintendent's office, convinced her husband had been swept over the falls. He had disappeared in the bushes and had not returned. Then a door opened. In walked a man who married up to the waiting woman. He laid his hand on her shoulder. She raised her head. Their eyes met. She leaped to her feet.

"Oh, papa, is it you?" she cried.

"What are you making such a fool of yourself for?" he asked.

Everybody laughed. Then the question was: Had there been a suicide?

Parties visited the falls the next day looking for a Mr. Sherman of Clinton Springs. A body was seen in the whirlpool. Time after time it was carried about the river pocket until the watchers could stand it no longer.

A friend of the missing man volunteered to swim out and capture the human torii. He seized it. A struggle ensued, succeeded in landing it.

The body was not that of the man they sought, but of Frederick Uell of Niagara Falls, who had been missing since July 4, while the date of the rescue was July 13. Uell was thought to be in the river from the pockets were inside out, and it was suspected that he had been thrown from the upper suspension bridge. Sherman's body was found in the whirlpool July 20.

LEFT A DESERTION VESTIGE.  
Niagara was started dependent on 1891, by a double suicide, but the incidents had no relation to each other. Walter Haywood of Buffalo leaped into the river from Luna Island, while Mrs. Hesse, daughter of New York, entered the river from Prospect Park. Haywood was financially unfortunate. He left a suicide vestige.

Here poor unfortunate Haywood lay. Nobody, laughs, nobody cries. Nobody knows and nobody cares.

In her trip to eternity Mrs. Hesse had a helping hand outstretched to her at the brink of the falls, the incident being one of the most tragic ever known at Niagara.

R. I. Helm of Philadelphia saw the woman come down the river. Without thought of the danger he climbed over the wall and waded out six feet to a point only ten feet from the brink of the American Fall.

Three times he grabbed her clothing, but as many times did she pull away. She was swept over the brink. It was with difficulty that Helm regained the shore.

Clerks in the Post office and express offices occasionally have strange experiences with persons bent on suicide. In 1891 a man called at the American Express office and sent his watch and money to Louisville. The agent suspected the man and the police arrested him. He admitted he was bent on going over the falls.

The body of a woman found floating in the lower river May 19, 1902, was identified as Miss Emma C. Aupperle of Philadelphia. Her friends said that once while chatting she said:

"If I ever commit suicide I will go to Niagara. I selected the spot two years ago when I was there."

"It is all for that woman," wrote Noble Kenny of Buffalo before he went to death from Prospect Point.

"It is home trouble," called 22-year-old Ethel Layman to Policeman Eubank, as she was wading out in the river at Luna Island. The officer caught her.

Jennie Newell threw herself into the river May 23, 1903, but was rescued.

"Don't pull me out, boys; let me go," she cried.

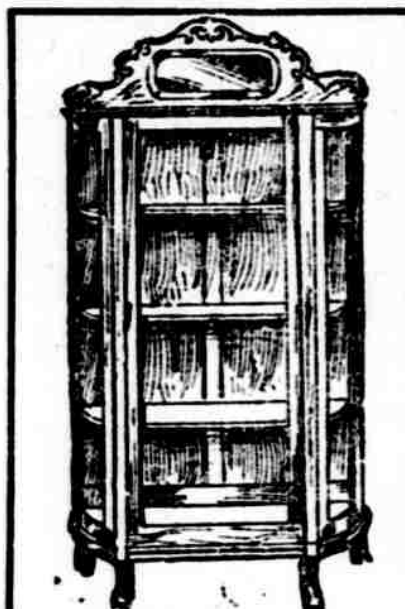
Few Niagara suicides created such a sensation as that of Peter Schenck, a Philadelphia lawyer, September 13, 1903. He had driven about the reservation and on the return from Goat Island deliberately leaped from the bridge into the rapids.

A reward of \$1,000 was offered for the recovery of his body. The lower river was watched as never before. It was surprising the number of boats that went out, but none was identified as that of Schenck.

Hippolyte Schneider, a Frenchman, added novelty to the river in 1903, and freed his neck from the noose. He was reported to have been in the water and then he was seen to place the pistol in his mouth. There was a report, and the man tumbled into the water and was swept away over the falls. He was interred with Lillian Russell and for her had died.

# A SWIFT DECISIVE CLEARANCE OF ALL ODDS AND ENDS

For THIS, the last week of this great sale, we have "gone the limit" in bargain giving. The following offerings, and those along the sides of this advertisement, speak for themselves. There is no question as to the values! The only question is—Do you need the goods? Will you, in consideration of the low prices, anticipate your spring needs and buy now? Decide quickly—the opportunity is too good to pass by! And remember you don't have to pay the money down—YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD HERE!!



35 CHINA CLOSETS  
Like cut-out and other styles with best glass ends and mirror top—worth \$20.00—  
out they go at—\$15.50

## Beautiful Sugar and Cream Sets



Can Hardly Be Distinguished from Genuine Cut Glassware  
These Sugar and Cream Sets are exactly like the picture—our celebrated "Prosser" glassware in whirlwind design—extra heavy crystal glass with rich, deep scintillating cuttings that look for all the world like real cut glass—special for Monday—the two pieces at May-Stern's for—

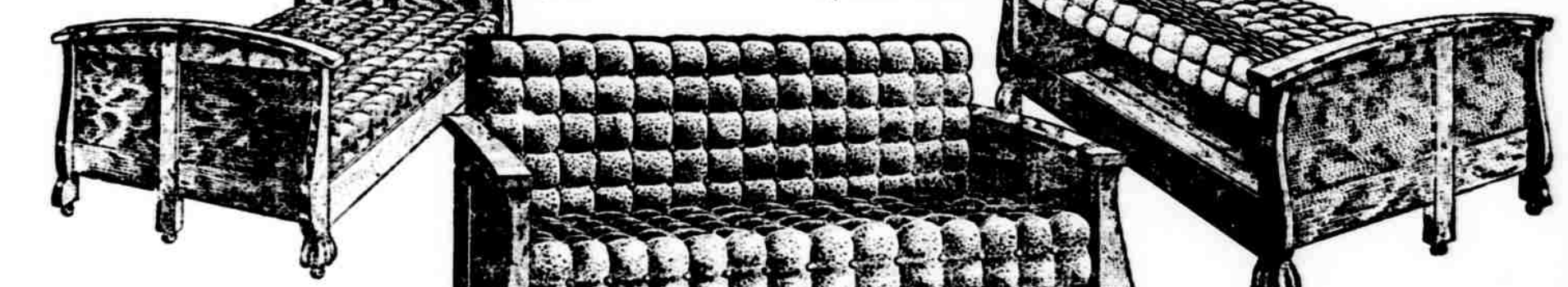
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23 SIDEBORDS.  
Like cut-out and other designs—fine polished oak—large plates—fine glass mirrors—regular \$30.00 values—special at—

\$9.75

## \$2.00 CASH FOR THIS BED-DAVENPORT



A handsome Davenport by day and a comfortable bed by night.  
The most perfect Bed-Davenport ever produced—made of selected quarter-sawn oak, in rich golden finish, with wide, curved arms and claw feet. Elegantly upholstered on a bed of tempered steel springs. Can be instantly converted into a full-size bed with massive head and foot board, as shown in the picture above.  
And balance \$2.00 a month—a magnificent piece of furniture, worth fully \$10.00—in this sale—\$27.50  
Note the box underneath in which to store the bed clothing during the day.



CHIFFONIERS  
Like cut-out—five large drawers and mirror top—worth \$10.00—  
out they go at—\$6.75



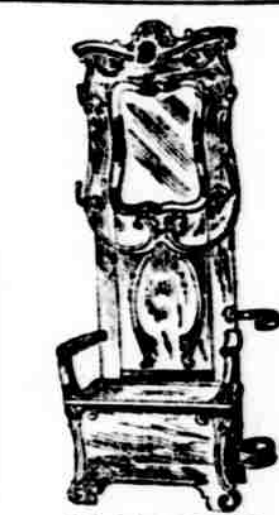
DINING CHAIRS  
Strongly made of golden oak with cane seats—standard \$1.00 chair for—  
out they go at—69c



BOOKCASES  
Combination bookcase with well-arranged desk—good bookcase and mirror—worth \$12.00—  
out they go at—\$14.50



THESE DRESSERS  
Are of finest quartered oak with spacious French plate pattern mirror—worth \$20.00—  
out they go at—\$16.00



HALL RACKS  
Like cut-out and other designs—fine polished oak—large plates—fine glass mirrors—worth \$18.00—  
out they go at—\$12.50



WARDROBES  
Made of solid oak—double doors—two drawers in base—worth \$10.00—  
out they go at—\$9.50



PARLOR SUITS  
A number of splendid Parlor Suits—various styles and patterns—all in rich mahogany finish and finely carved—our \$25 values—special for—  
out they go at—\$17.50



FOLDING BED-COUCHES  
These Bed-Couches are made of metal throughout—the sides raise up forming a comfortable bed at night—sold regularly at \$6.00—special this week for—  
out they go at—\$3.25



MANTEL BEDS  
We throw into this sale 25 Mantel Beds, exactly like cut-out, made of best seasoned oak—rich golden finish—set off with neat carving and pretty mirror at top—\$18 quality—while they last—  
out they go at—\$12.50



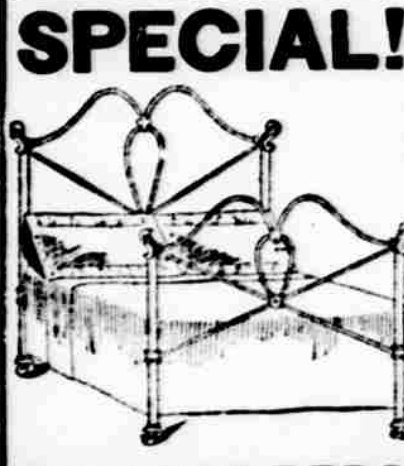
PIANOS  
JUST THINK OF IT.  
ONLY \$1.50 A WEEK  
Will pay for a handsome Upright Piano—guaranteed for ten years. We offer you a great line for your selection and guarantee you a positive saving of \$50 to \$100 on every one. For instance—see the Piano—worth \$250 which we offer this week at—  
\$189.00  
Easy Terms—No interest ever charged.

# WATKINS & CO

S. E. Cor. Eleventh and Olive Sts.

CASH OR CREDIT

WE GIVE EAGLE TRADING STAMPS



SPECIAL!  
200 IRON BEDS  
MUST BE CLOSED OUT.  
They're good, strong, durable Iron Beds, nicely channelled, strong posts and rails, cut double bed size, and sold regularly at \$2.00. We need the room they take up and will close out the entire lot this week at—  
\$1.39

## ADIRONDACK DEER STARVING.

Trees Felled, That Animals May Feed on Branches.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Johnstown, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Hundreds of deer in the Adirondacks are starving. Guides, under the direction of the Adirondack League Club, have left on snow-shoes from Old Forge, Boonville, North-

ville, Little Moose Lake and several other points to felling the yarding places of the deer. There they will fell hemlock, balsam and young larch trees that the deer may feed on the tender branches. The snow is so deep in the mountains that the deer cannot move beyond their yarding places, where they have eaten all the available food.

Last winter many deer died of starvation.

Six Churches Robbed.  
New York, Feb. 25.—In the past few

weeks six churches in Westchester County have been looted. The latest robbery was at Leicestershire, on the Sound, where the burglar forced St. John's Episcopal church, and stole a clock, a mirror and dress-suit case belonging to the Reverend Richard Coburn. A church at Pelham Manor was also looted. A Bible was stolen.

Music Stops Fire Panic.  
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Mahanoy City, Pa., Feb. 25.—During the

program of a motion-picture show at Ashland the fire alarm sounded and an exposed electric light wire on the machine. In an instant a big flame leaped into the air and many in the galleries made a rush for the exits. A panic was avoided by attendants carrying the machine into the street and confining the fire.

Horned Horse an Oregon Curio.  
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
La Grande, Ore., Feb. 25.—J. C. Shack-

ford, ex-sheriff of Wallawa County, has a horned horse. This horse is 2 years of age and has two well-developed horns. They are attached to the front of the head of the ear, about two inches above the base of the ear.

Spilled Hundred Quarts of Milk.  
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Woodbury, N. J., Feb. 25.—Two horses attached to the milk wagon of Harry Moore ran away this morning on High street and crashed into a telephone pole, wreck-

ing the wagon, spilling 100 quarts of milk and doing other damage.

\$10,000 Barn Destroyed.  
REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Gettysburg, Pa., Feb. 25.—A large barn owned by J. C. Tyson of Gettysburg was destroyed by fire. Mr. Tyson is a wealthy fruit grower in this vicinity, and his barn was considered the finest in the county. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.